

Remarks

Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29-34 are currently pending in this application. No claims are amended, added or cancelled. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 29, 31, and 32

Claims 29, 31, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,778,213 issued to Shakib *et al.* ("Shakib"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because Shakib does not disclose all of the features of the claims.

Claim 29 includes, *inter alia*, the features of "receiving at least one indicator from said character table bank, wherein said character table bank receives a character as input and provides at least one indicator corresponding to a pre-determined character set in which said character can be rendered" and "comparing said at least one indicator for each character to determine a character set in which said plurality of characters can be rendered." At least these features are not disclosed by Shakib.

Shakib apparently discloses a character set conversion table to provide conversion of one character set to another corresponding character set. See col. 4, lines 8-41 of Shakib. However, this is not the same as character table bank that receives a character as input and provides at least one indicator corresponding to a pre-determined character set in which said character can be rendered, as set forth in claim 29. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 is patentable over Shakib.

In addition, a user in Shakib requests or specifies a desired form of character set (i.e., character set after conversion). See Fig. 2, element 30, Fig.

3, element 40, and col. 4, lines 11-14 and 34-36 of Shakib. In contrast, the claimed invention determines a character set by comparing an indicator corresponding to a predetermined character set. For at least this additional reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 is patentable over Shakib.

Dependent claim 31 depends from and adds additional features to independent claim 29. Because Shakib does not disclose each of the features recited in claim 29, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 31 is also patentable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claim 32

Claim 32 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Shakib. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Shakib does not disclose all of the features of the claim.

Claim 32 includes, *inter alia*, the features of "individually comparing each of the characters of the message to said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets in the character table bank to determine a match between each of the characters of the message and one or more of said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets... comparing each of the characters of the message identifies one or more of said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets capable of expressing each of the characters of the message" and "performing a logical operation among said identified pre-determined candidate character sets to determine said pre-determined candidate character sets best suited to express the message." At least this combination of features is not disclosed by Shakib. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not addressed the foregoing features and the combination of the foregoing features for the rejection of claim 32. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 32 is improper and must be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shakib in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,216,102 issued to Martino et al. ("Martino") and Patent Cooperation Treaty Patent Application Number WO 92/15067 assigned to Marshall ("Marshall").

Applicant respectfully submits that, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(c), the newly applied reference Martino et al. (U.S. 6,216,102 B1) does not qualify as prior art against the present application. Section 103 (c) of Title 35 states:

(c) Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

In particular, both Martino et al. and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, subject to obligation of assignment to International Business Machines, Corp. Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art; therefore the final rejection must be withdrawn. However, if necessary, Applicant reserves the right to distinguish over Martino et al.

Claims 30, 31, 33, and 34

Dependent claim 30 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shakib in view of Marshal. Dependent claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shakib in view of Marshal and U.S. Patent Number 6,141,656 issued to Ozbutum et al. ("Ozbutum"). Dependent claims 33 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shakib in view of Martino.

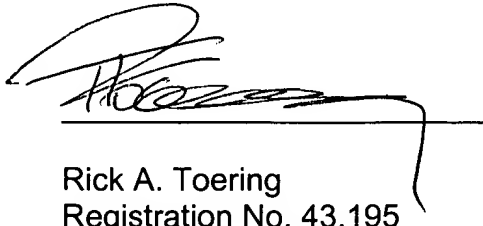
Each of these dependent claims depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 29 and 32. As discussed above Shakib does not disclose, teach or suggest each of the features recited in the independent claims and, thus, necessarily fails to teach or suggest each of the features in the dependent claims. None of the references relied upon by the Examiner, alone or in combination with one another, compensates for the deficiencies of Shakib discussed above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,



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